

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 01724 101709Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 IO-13 AID-05

ACDA-10 /090 W

-----101719Z 108742 /41

O R 101641Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1000

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 1724

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN, US

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: BOTH SIDES DISCUSS

SUMMARY: PANAMANIAN TEAM DISCUSSED CANAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF CONEP (NATIONAL COMMISSION OF BUSINESSMEN) EVENING OF MARCH 9 WHILE U.S. OFFICIALS BRIEFED PRESS ON NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON. BOTH DISCUSSIONS WERE REPORTED PROMINENTLY IN MARCH 10 LOCAL PRESS. BOTH SIDES, ACCORDING TO PRESS, INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH THE LAST NEGOTIATING ROUND, AND SHOWED MODERATE OPTIMISM THAT TREATY COULD BE ACHIEVED THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. MEMBERS OF THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATING TEAM DISCUSSED STATUS OF CANAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH CONEP MEMBERS YESTERDAY EVENING. LED BY CHIEF NEGOTIATOR ROMULO ESCOBAR, NICOLAS GONZALEZ REVILLA, EDWIN FABREGA, ADOLFO AHUMADA AND CARLOS LOPEZ-GUEVARA ANSWERED QUESTIONS FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS. ESCOBAR DESCRIBED THE LAST NEGOTIATING ROUND AS THE "MOST VALUABLE" (VALIOSA) TO DATE BECAUSE THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS CAME PEPAED TO DISCUSS THE IMPORTANT ISSUES OUTSTANDING: I.E., DURATION, NEUTRALITY AND DEFENSE.
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ESCOBAR SAID THAT U.S. NEGOTIATORS HAD ACTED "SERIOUSLY" IN THE FEBRUARY ROUND, AND ADDED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ "LEFT THE FEELING THAT THEY REALLY WANT A TREATY AND THEY DID NOT DODGE THE MAJOR ISSUES." BOTH SIDES AGREE, ESCOBAR SAID, ON THE CANAL'S NEUTRALITY, BUT DISAGREE ON HOW TO GUARANTEE IT. BOTH AGREE ALSO ON NEED TO PROTECT

THE CANAL "FROM ATTACKS BY THIRD COUNTRIES", BUT
PANAMA REJECTS "ANY FORMULA WHICH MIGHT SUGGEST ANY
U.S. MILITARY TUTELAGE."

2. BOTH SIDES, SAID ESCOBAR, HAVE AGREED THAT NUCLEAR
WEAPONS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IN PANAMA AS PANAMA IS
SIGNATORY TO TOLALELOLCO TREATY.

3. EDWIN FABREGA DENIED THAT THE CANAL WILL BE OBSOLETE
BY THE YEAR 2000. "IT'S BETTER NOW THAN WHEN CONSTRUCTED"
HE NOTED. ESCOBAR ADDED ON THIS POINT THAT U.S. DESIRE
TO MAINTAIN OPERATION AND DEFENSE OF CANAL UNTIL 2000
WAS PROOF THAT WATERWAY
NOT OBSOLETE.

4. ON LANDS AND WATERS, FABREGA STATED THAT 70 PERCENT
OF CANAL ZONE AREA IS NOT NECESSARY FOR OPERATION
TF
U
UDDLAND
DEFENSE OF CANAL, AND WILL BE USED FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
UNDER NEW TREATY REGIME.

5. BOTH "ESTRELLA" AND "STAR AND HERALD" CARRIED TEXT
OF GEORGE GEDDA'S AP ARTICLE ON U.S. OFFICIALS PRESS
BRIEFING ON NEGOTIATIONS. "ESTRELLA" HEADLINED: THERE
IS A BASIS FOR ARRIVING AT AN UNDERSTANDING. PRO-GOP
ERSA PAPERS HAVE MADE NO MENTION OF U.S. OFFICIALS
BRIEFING AS YET. THRE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT
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ON THE RESPECTIVE DISCUSSIONS SO FAR.
JORDEN

NOTE BY OC/T: PARA 4 AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: BOTH SIDES DISCUSS SUMMARY: PANAMANIAN TEAM DISCUSSED CANAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF CONEP (NATIONAL COMMISSION OF BUSI
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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